



# Navigation Improvements

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has a number of authorities for assisting States, local governments, and Native American Indian tribes in the planning, design and construction of projects for navigation. Most of these programs provide cost-shared support, not grants. This fact sheet will discuss authorities which may be applicable to sites within the Great Lakes region. These programs were authorized under the various River and Harbor Acts (RHA) and Water Resources Development Acts (WRDA).

## Small Navigation Projects

**Authorization:** Section 107 of RHA 1960, as amended.

**Program Goals:** To study, adopt, construct and maintain small navigation projects.

**Application:** This authority has been used to construct 51 navigation projects in the Great Lakes region. A recent example is the Toussaint River, Ohio, which improved navigation of the channel connecting the Toussaint River and Lake Erie. The project consists of a navigation channel, approximately 125 wide by 2,100 feet long.

**Cost Sharing:** After the first \$100,000 of full Federal funding, the non-Federal partner must cost share 50 percent of the feasibility study. The cost-sharing formula for project design, construction and maintenance under this authority is dependant on the type of navigation feature proposed:

- general harbor features (80% Federal, 20% Non-Federal)
- inland waterways (75% Federal, 25% Non-Federal)
- recreational harbor features (50% Federal, 50% Non-Federal)

The local sponsor must also provide all necessary lands, easement, rights-of-way, relocations and disposal (LERRD). The Federal share on individual projects can not exceed \$4,000,000.

**Budgetary:** Annual funding not to exceed \$35,000,000 Corps-wide. The FY 2000 appropriation for this program is \$7,500,000.

## Planning Assistance to States

**Authorization:** Section 22 of WRDA 1974, as amended.

**Program Goals:** Support States and tribes in their comprehensive planning for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land resources. Section 22 can also be used in watershed and ecosystem planning.

**Cost Sharing:** 50% Federal, 50% State or tribe.

**Budgetary:** Annual funding not to exceed \$10,000,000 Corps-wide. The FY 2000 appropriation for this program is \$5,800,000.

## Harbors

**Authorization:** Section 214 of WRDA 1986, as amended.

**Program Goals:** A general authority for design and construction of commercial navigation improvements.

**Cost Sharing:** The cost sharing formula for design and construction is based on the project depth: to 20 feet (90% Federal, 10% Non-Federal) and 20 to 45 feet (75% Federal, 25% Non-Federal)

The local partner must also provide all necessary lands, easement, rights-of-way, relocations and disposal (LERRD).

**Budgetary:** Projects constructed under this authority receive specific appropriations.

## Confined Disposal Facilities

**Authorization:** Sections 201 of WRDA 1996.

**Program Goals:** Provide for the construction of confined disposal facilities (CDFs) for dredged material from navigation channels.

**Application:** The Corps has constructed over 40 CDFs on the Great Lakes under previous authorities. WRDA 96 established uniform cost sharing requirements for future CDFs, nationwide.

**Cost Sharing:** The cost sharing is based on the depth of the navigation channel. For virtually all Great Lakes harbors and channels, the cost sharing is 75% Federal/25% non-Federal. The non-Federal sponsor is also responsible for all lands, easements, rights-of-way and relocations, and for CDF maintenance following closure.

**Budgetary:** Projects constructed under this authority receive specific appropriations.

## Expedited Reconnaissance Study

**Authorization:** Section 905(b) of WRDA 1986.

**Program Goals:** To conduct a Reconnaissance Study of a wide range of potential water resources projects at an accelerated schedule. Potential projects may include navigation, flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, shoreline or streambank protection, and water quality enhancement.

**Cost Sharing:** Expedited Reconnaissance Studies are conducted at full-Federal cost, not to exceed \$100,000.

**Budgetary:** The FY 2000 appropriation for this program directed six studies in the Great Lakes Basin, all as Congressional Adds.

## Reimbursable Support

Aside from the cost-shared authorities described above, the Corps can provide technical support to State, municipal and tribal agencies on a reimbursable basis.

## For More Information

In order to obtain more information about the application of any of these programs in the Great Lakes basin, contact the following Corps District offices for sites in:

### New York, PA and Ohio

Philip Berkeley  
Buffalo District  
716-879-4145  
Philip.E.Berkeley@usace.army.mil

### Michigan, MN and WI

Joseph Wanielista  
Detroit District  
313-226-7474  
Joseph.R.Wanielista@usace.army.mil

### Illinois and Indiana

Phil Bernstein  
Chicago District  
312-353-6400 ext 2000  
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For more examples of programs for flood control, shoreline protection, and environmental restoration, check out the Corps' Great Lakes Region web site:

[www.lrd.usace.army.mil/gl/gl.htm](http://www.lrd.usace.army.mil/gl/gl.htm)